

Campbell, KY. Just this week, the commanding general of the 101st, General Petraeus, told me that over in Iraq "money is ammunition. It's the key to all we are doing."

The 101st is doing some great work in northern Iraq. Besides killing Saddam's two sons and accepting the surrender of Saddam's Defense Minister, the 101st has worked on over 3,200 projects in the rebuilding of Iraq. These range from repairing schools to repairing oil refineries. They are doing truly remarkable work along with all our forces.

Some in Congress believe we should make the rebuilding funds a loan and not a grant. I oppose this approach.

While Iraq certainly has the resources to become a wealthy country, its revenue from oil should be used to invest in its own future, not to pay off old debts incurred under Saddam or be burdened with the debts of a loan as it tries to transition to a free economy.

And besides, there is no established Iraq government to transfer a loan to.

I find great irony in the arguments of some who oppose the war. Many argued this war was all about the President's desire for oil.

Now many of these same people say we should use Iraqi oil to repay our Government. And President Bush is leading the charge on allowing Iraqis to keep their oil revenues for themselves.

Planning for an Iraqi oil fund is now in the works. It will give Iraqis a stake in the future of their country for the first time. Funds would go to public goods, such as national defense, education, and infrastructure.

This is the type of approach Iraq needs. We need to give the Iraqi people a hand up and not keep their heads down with debt.

If we don't act swiftly on this bill and terrorism prevails in this war, then we risk having to fight this war on America's turf. And that is why it is so vital to defeat the enemy on its turf as opposed to allowing them to regroup and hit us at home as they did on 9/11.

I don't like getting casualty notifications on soldiers, especially soldiers in my State, and I don't like it for anybody's state. No Senator likes seeing them. It is difficult.

We all feel for the families and friends of the brave soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know what it is like for those with loved ones still there. My wife and I felt the same way when our son Bill served in Operation Desert Storm and later in Afghanistan.

But we must remember that our cause is just and that we are on the right side of history.

We must remember that the war on terror may continue for some time. I am going to repeat that because I want the American people to understand that the war on terror may continue for some time. I acknowledge that this is a difficult point for many Americans to grasp. Indeed, it is difficult for many of us.

This is why it is time for us to move swiftly on this bill to protect our troops and help rebuild both countries. This bill is an investment in not just Iraq and Afghanistan, but it is an investment in our security, freedom, and future.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I wish to take a few moments to speak in favor of the Biden amendment that is before the Senate, which offsets the extraordinary expenses—\$87 billion—we are being asked to consider in this supplemental appropriations act.

Before I get into that discussion, however, it is probably useful for all of us to, once again, realize what \$87 billion really is. It is very difficult to get our hands around such a sizable number. It is only when we look at it in comparison to other important federal programs, to other key economic indicators, that we can really develop a better understanding of how much money this really is.

Mr. President, \$87 billion is more than the combined budget deficits of all the 50 States in 2004. Even in the greatest fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, the deficits of all 50 states were less than this sum.

Eighty-seven billion is 87 times what the Federal Government usually spends annually on afterschool programs. That is right, what we usually spend, because this year the Administration proposes cutting that by nearly \$400 billion.

We have fought to try and get it back to just \$1 billion for the afterschool programs that are so essential to assisting children develop the academic tools, personal confidence, and social skills necessary for personal success and accomplishment in this country. Yet still this Administration wants to slash this funding.

Again, this \$87 billion is 87 times what we spend nationwide on afterschool programs.

It is 2 years' worth of unemployment benefits for the millions of people who have lost their jobs on this Administration's watch. Every couple of months, we have to fight tooth and nail to extend these temporary benefits for Americans who cannot find work. And it's always a fight.

These are not unmotivated citizens looking for a check they are hard-working Americans who can't find a job in this slack economy. If we help get them through this extraordinarily difficult time, they'll be back contributing to the unemployment insurance system in a very short time period.

This \$87 billion is enough to pay each of the 3.3 million people who have lost their jobs in the past 3 years more than \$26,000.

It is seven times what the President proposed to spend on education for low-income schools. Make no mistake about it: This \$87 billion is seven times

the amount that this institution, the House of Representatives, and the President are allocating for the low-income schools in this country. It is seven times the amount we are spending for the education of low-income children in this country.

It is nine times what this Federal Government spends each year on special education for those several million children, close to about 4 million, who used to be kept in closets or kept away from the public school system. We don't do that anymore, we don't relegate Americans to lives of deprivation, neglect, and isolation. For more than 25 years, we have made steady progress, with section 504 of the Education Act and then eventually the special education programs, the IDEA, some 25 years ago. We have made remarkable progress.

What we are now looking now is that so many of these children graduate from high school, go on to college, and enter the workforce. They have a sense of value of their own self worth, a sense of dignity, and they now contribute to the productivity of this nation. And what a difference it makes to their parents, and their communities, and their country. Yet in one stroke of the pen, we are about to send nine as much money to Iraq as we invest in special education each year.

This \$87 billion is also eight times what the Government spends each year on the Pell grants to provide middle- and low-income students the opportunity to go to college. The average income of families needing this assistance is \$15,200. And there are more than 4,800,000 young people nationwide relying on this badly needed grant help.

We began the Pell Grant program at a time when we as a nation to our young people that if they have ability and they can gain entrance into the colleges where they are applying, we will help devise a package of grants, loans, and work study programs in conjunction with their own summer employment and contributions from their family, so that they can achieve their highest aspirations.

That was an incredibly important choice for the economic and social well-being of this country. It is important in terms of ensuring that we are going to have well-qualified people in the military. It is important in terms of our institutions and democracy.

Yet this \$87 billion is eight times what we are allocating for middle-income and low-income families to send their children to school. Do my colleagues understand that? It is eight times that amount, and we had to battle this year, a fight which we lost, to bring the Pell grants up to respond to the increase in tuitions that are taking place across this country. We wanted \$2.2 billion, but we lost that \$2.2 billion in the Senate. This Senate didn't have the money to help more families send their kids to college this year, and now we know why.

This \$87 billion is eight times the total Pell grants. That is what we are